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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-713-i19)

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In re Application of:)

Chad A. Mirkin, et al.)

Serial No.: 09/976,863)

Filed: October 12, 2001)

For: NANOPARTICLES HAVING)
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES ATTACHED)
THERE TO AND USES THEREFOR)

Examiner: J. Riley

Art Unit: 1637

Confirmation No. 2841

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as shown below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 190-236 and insert new claims 433-480 as shown below.

-- 433. A method of binding oligonucleotides to nanoparticles to produce stable nanoparticle-oligonucleotide conjugates, the method comprising:

providing oligonucleotides having covalently bound thereto a moiety comprising a functional group which can bind to the nanoparticles;

contacting the oligonucleotides and the nanoparticles in aqueous solution for a period of time sufficient to allow at least some of the oligonucleotides to bind to the nanoparticles;

adding at least one salt to the aqueous solution to form a salt solution; and

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